

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 14533 071730Z

50

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 IO-10 NEA-06 /072 W

----- 024087

P R 071719Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5463

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 14533

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

GABORONE FOR EASUM

NAIROBI FOR HAVERKAMP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, SF

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION US ENCOURAGED UK NAVAL COOPERATION
WITH SOUTH AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 242431 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 213729 (NOTAL)

1. WE HELD BACKGROUNDER AUTHORIZED BY PARA 6 REF (A)
ON NOVEMBER 6. IT WAS ATTENDED BY 15 CORRESPONDENTS IN-
CLUDING MOST MAJOR UK PAPERS, REUTERS AND SOME AMERICAN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 14533 071730Z

MEDIA.

2. WE BEGAN BACKGROUNDER BY NOTING THAT THERE HAD BEEN STORIES EMANATING FROM SOUTH AFRICA BUT PRINTED IN UK SUGGESTING THAT US HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING UK NAVAL COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND UK MAINTENANCE OF SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT. WE SAID BACKGROUNDER WAS ONLY TO CLEAR UP THIS POINT AND QUOTED PARAS 3 AND 4 OF REF (A) TO EFFECT THAT US HAS NOT ENCOURAGED COLLABORATION OR MAINTENANCE OF AGREEMENT AND THAT US ITSELF HAS NOT COLLABORATED ON MILITARY MATTERS WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

3. IN QUESTION PERIOD WHICH FOLLOWED, SOME CORRESPONDENTS PRESSED ON WHETHER LACK OF US ENCOURAGEMENT TO DATE MEANT THAT US "DID NOT CARE" ABOUT CONTINUATION OF SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT; SPECIFICALLY DID WE NOT THINK AGREEMENT WOULD BE VALUABLE IN TIME OF WAR. WE DECLINED TO RESPOND DIRECTLY TO THIS QUESTION ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT REQUIRED SPECULATION ABOUT SCENARIO OF SOME FUTURE, UNKNOWN CONTINGENCY. WE COULD ONLY DESCRIBE PRESENT POLICY. AT LEAST ONE CORRESPONDENT SAID HE COULD ONLY INTERPRET THIS AS MEANING THAT US DID NOT THINK SIMONSTOWN IS OR WILL BE IMPORTANT TO US AND ITS ALLIES.

4. WE WERE ASKED ABOUT SACLANT STUDY ON NATO IMPLICATIONS OF CAPE ROUTE. IN RESPONSE WE USED QUOTE FROM DEPARTMENT JULY 10 RESPONSE TO CONGRESS IN LAST SENTENCE PARA 4 REF (B).

5. WE WERE ALSO ASKED ABOUT STATUS DIEGO GARCIA, CURRENT SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AND OCTOBER 29-30 US/UK CONSULTATIONS ON INDIAN OCEAN. WE DREW ON AVAILABLE GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE.

6. BACKGROUNDER RECEIVED NO PRESS COVERAGE NOVEMBER 7. WE EXPECT SUNDAY PAPERS (NOVEMBER 10) MAY REFLECT OUR STATEMENTS. WE WILL REPORT ANY STORIES WHICH APPEAR.

SOHM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON14533
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740320-0742
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741163/aaaacbow.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 242431 (NOTAL), (B) STATE, 213729 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <08-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGATION US ENCOURAGED UK NAVAL COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, US, SF, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005